lopment & Regulation Act, 1951, for location of industries in Tamil Nadu State, were at various stages of consideration. The details of pending applications are not divulged till the Government have taken final decisions thereon.

High Court Bench at Meerut

1501. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for establishing Benches of various High Courts from various states are pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether there is any demand made in Uttar Pradesh for setting up a Bench at Meerut and other places; and

(c) what are the proposals and their details and by when Government will take a decision on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The following proposals received from concerned State Governments for establishment of Benches of certain High Courts have been engaging the attention of the Government of India:—

Sl. No.	High Court	Places where Benches proposed
1	Allahabad	Western Uttar Pradesh
2	Gauhati	Imphal, Agartala, Kohima & Shillong.
3	Karnataka	Hubli-Dharwar
4	Madhya Pradesh	Raipur and Bhopal
5	Madras	Madurai

Certain Bar Associations etc. of Uttar Pradesh demanded a Bench of the Allahabad High Court at different places, including Meerut, in Western Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh did not suggest a specific place for establishing the bench in Western Uttar Pradesh.

It is not possible to indicate by when a decision on above-mentioned proposals will be reached.

Crises in Coal Industry

1502. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal Industry is facing a crisis;

(b) if so, what are the principal reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) It will not be correct to say that the coal industry is facing a crisis. However, Coal India has been incurring losses over the years mainly because of the unsatisfactory performance of two of its subsidiaries, i.e. Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited which are faced with a large number of problems mostly inherited from pre-nationalisation days. The other subsidiary companies have been doing well. Coal India had exceeded the targets of production in 1980-81 and 1981-82 and has been nearly achieving its targets during the subsequent three years. The coal production has almost doubled since nationalisation and the requirements of various consuming sectors in the country are being met by and large.

The two subsidiary companies, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have inherent problems like difficult geo-mining conditions under which they operate and the continued problems of inadequate and erratic power supply, law and order, absenteeism delay in opening new projects due to obstruction by local youths demanding employment and non-availability of land.

The various measures being adopted to increase production and improve productivity in the companies include considerable investment in new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditions and timely completion of new projects and improvement in law and order situation. For easy ushering in of new technology, collaborations are sought with expert countries which include supply of initial sets of equipment and training of the Indian Engineers and workers both within the country and abroad.

The Government have also appointed two Committees to go into the working of Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited and suggest measures for improving performance of these companies.

Production of coal

1503. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of coal during these years was below or above the target;

(c) if so, what are the figures; and

(d) the price of coal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The target and actual production of coal in the country during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual production
1982-83	133.00	130.50
1983-84	142.00	138.22
1984-85	152.00	147.40

(d) The average pithead prices of coal during the last three years is as under:

Date of revision	Average pit-head price of coal (Rs. per tonne)	
	CIL	SCCL
27-5-1982	145.90	154.75
6-1-1984	183.00	192.00
9-1-1986	210.00	219.00

Demand for LPG Cylinders in West Bengal

1504. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG cylinders in West Bengal is much more than the production of cylinders in the state;